

Date Mailed  
December 22, 1998

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Farmers Telephone Company, Inc.,  
That It Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

1960-TR-101

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

This is a proceeding to investigate the notice received on November 16, 1998, from Farmers Telephone Company, Inc., that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Beetown, Cassville, Lancaster and Potosi exchanges in Grant county. The utility mailed notice of the increase to its customers on December 1, 1998. Under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective February 1, 1999, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

This action is classified as a Type III action according to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). Furthermore, since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11, nor an environmental assessment is required.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission will investigate this matter under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 500 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Commission deems it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of Farmers Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from Farmers Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility, in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

Questions on this matter may be directed to Tom Gross of the Telecommunications Division, at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission